

Polar Ecology Conference 2012 – Some Facts and Impressions

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The Polar Ecology Conference 2012 took place in České Budějovice, Czech Republic, from September 30th to October 4th. The event was organised by the Centre for Polar Ecology, University of South Bohemia. Almost 120 participants from 16 different countries have arrived. 49 lectures have been given in ecology, botany, zoology, algology and Earth sciences sections. Apart that approximately 50 posters were presented as well. Important keynote speakers were invited and contributed significantly to the high scientific level of the conference: Kim Holmén (*Norwegian Polar Institute*), Ad Huiskes (*Unit of Polar Ecology, Netherlands Institute of Ecology*), Josef Svoboda (*Department of Biology, University of Toronto*), Andy Hodson (*UNIS + University of Sheffield*), Terry Callaghan (*University of Sheffield + INTERACT*) and Grzegorz Rachlewicz (*Adam Mickiewicz University*).

One of the main goals of the conference was to improve experience, knowledge and skills of students and young scientists. Therefore a young scientist award for oral and poster presentation have been organised. Invited speakers have evaluated all presentations and posters. Best oral presentation award was attributed to Marek Stibal (*Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland*) – The role of subglacial microbes in carbon cycling and methane release in the past and present; Jakub Malecki (*Adam Mickiewicz University*) - Recent progress in glaciological investigations in Petuniabukta area, Svalbard; and Eva Kašparová (*Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR*) - Is the life history the main constraint shaping the population structure of species being repetitively affected by climate change?

Awards for poster presentation have been given to Christian Lettner (*University of Vienna*) - CSI: Svalbard* – exploring relations between ploidy, growth form and habitat in *Saxifraga oppositifolia*; Kateřina Kopalová (*Charles University in Prague*) - Four new small-celled naviculoid taxa from the maritime Antarctic region; Louise Berg (*University of Copenhagen*) - CH₄ and CO₂ flux measurements at four contrasting vegetation types at Disko, west Greenland;

Together with APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) and its representative Maja Lisowska an APECS Panel have been organized "International Collaborations and Networking in Polar Science World". Terry Callaghan has summarized his experience with making posters and introduced tips and tricks for making a perfect poster. David Hik (IASC president) and Ad Huiskes (SCAR representative) give a speech on opportunities for collaboration and funding in their respective organisations. Useful information and fruitful discussion on the proposed topics was followed by approximately 35 participants.

The conference materials are now available online including complete abstract book and selected posters and lectures – all that on the website of the Centre for Polar Ecology: <http://polar.prf.jcu.cz/conference.htm>. The next conference will take place in autumn 2014.

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